

UCIA Meeting
Monday, January 22, 2018
10:30 a.m. – noon
International Affairs Offices, Conference Room A

Jenene Belcher, *International Credit Evaluator, Registrar*
Bob Bodnar, *Director, Steger Center*
David Clubb, *Director, Cranwell International Center*
Van Crowder, *Executive Director, Office of International Research, Education, and Development*
Dana Cruikshank, *Director of Communications, CIRED*
Rachel Fitzgerald, *Assistant Director, Global Education Office*
Monika Gibson, *Director of Student Services, Graduate School*
Ian Leuschner, *Director, International Support Services*
Mallory Miller, *Project Manager, Academic Resource Management*
Shelby Miller, *Director of Student-Athlete Development, VT Athletics*
Sudipta Mukherjee, *GSA Representative, Pamplin College of Business*
Jessica Muller, *Project Coordinator, CIRED* (recorder, filling in for Patricia Hughes)
Nicole Sanderlin, *Director of Global Engagement, College of Engineering*
Debra Stoudt, *Associate Dean for Academic Policies and Procedures, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences*
Thomas Thompson, *Associate Dean and Director of International Programs, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences*
Latanya Walker, *Director of Alumni Relations for Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement*

1. Welcome, and introductions

Ian Leuschner called the meeting to order and asked all participants to introduce themselves.

2. Government Shutdown

The recent government shutdown will affect non-fee-based organizations including immigration processing services. For Virginia Tech, this means that the labor department cannot process labor applications including H1B visa applications and work authorizations. Once services are restored, there will likely be lengthier processing times. F1 and J1 visas should not be impacted as they are fee-based programs. Applications to embassies and consulates abroad may be affected. Hopefully there will be no long term impact.

3. NAFSA Campaign

NAFSA, the association of international education, has started a multiyear campaign to raise the profile of international students in the US. The goal of the program is to correct misperceptions and raise awareness of the positive impacts these students have on culture and the economy. NAFSA has initially targeted six states, but are asking that institutions in all states share stories of outstanding international students, current or former, who have made a contribution or impact that merits recognition. To share these stories, visit the website <https://connectingourworld.org/> and use the link at upper right. Because your inputs may be published, please consider obtaining permission to share from the student featured.

4. COIA Update

University Council has approved a new major in philosophy, the Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics. The UCIA subcommittee for international alumni relations in advancement has been

tasked with developing and submitting a draft for a charge to the next COIA meeting. It will be necessary to assemble a group to gain a broad view of international alumni impacts on university. This will most likely be a multi-year process. COIA has asked the subcommittee to submit a 2-year plan in April.

5. Alumni Awards for Excellence in International Education

The deadline for applications to the Alumni Awards for Excellence in International Education is February 5. UCIA has yet to establish a committee to review the applications. Tom Thompson, Debra Stoudt and Nicole Sanderling volunteered to serve on this committee. The committee will be Tom, Debra and Nicole, plus one committee member from last year who will serve again, TBD.

6. Topics of Interest

Ian asked what topics are of interest to the group for future presentations and discussions. He also suggested moving to a quarterly rather than monthly meeting schedule. The general charge of UCIA is to provide guidance to Outreach and International Affairs, but there are no specific tasks charged to the committee at this time. Several committee members requested that Guru Ghosh advise the committee of priorities and suggested that perhaps, moving forward, Guru could provide an annual outline of directives for the committee. Ian will share this feedback with Guru and let him know that the group has requested further guidance.

The group members present indicated that they are amenable to the idea of less frequent meetings, perhaps even on an ad-hoc basis to address specific topics and challenges. Quarterly meetings do not align well with the academic calendar, but meeting twice per semester could work well.

Ian asked if committee members would like to hear from any special speakers, such as administrators, whose perspectives could be useful. Tom Thompson suggested reaching out to the graduate school to gain the perspective of administrators there. Nicole Sanderlin suggested the Provost's office. Tom suggested the President could meet with UCIA to discuss the vision of Virginia Tech as a Global Land Grant University, and what that means specifically. Guru could advise on the appropriateness of the invitation. David Clubb suggested Menah Pratt-Clarke could speak to the group from the role of Vice Provost and Vice President of Strategic Affairs (Beyond Boundaries) and discuss how the international dimensions of the University fit into the conversation of diversity and inclusion at Virginia Tech.

Bob Bodnar suggested that the University's international efforts could benefit from President Sand's direct support, for example, if the President issued a statement about the link between college-level international initiatives and the globalization of the University. Could UCIA encourage this support by meeting with the President? Before holding such a meeting, it would be useful for UCIA to become better informed of international initiatives at each College, research center and institute at VT, as well as College-level procedures for faculty involvement in international activities, incentives or disincentives, support and resources available for faculty international involvement, etc.

The Committee discussed the most effective methods for obtaining this information and posed the idea of forming a sub-group to create a questionnaire that would be sent to College/institute/center deans or directors. These individuals can then designate administrators to fill out the information according to the structure for international activity oversight within each unit. It will be important to be specific about questions, as "international" may mean different things in different contexts. The survey should

include both qualitative and quantitative data for the most complete picture of international activity. Tom Thompson and Latanya Walker volunteered to work in this sub-group to develop the questionnaire.

Van Crowder shared that CIRED has an ongoing initiative to add international fields for data collection to the existing EFARS system developed by the Provost's office for faculty and staff reporting. This will be an effective method moving forward but is not yet fully functional and fields representing international activities have not yet been integrated.

After a discussion with Latanya Walker about current priorities for international alumni data collection, members of the committee suggested that UCIA make a future recommendation for the development of an international alumni database and staff position exclusively responsible for international alumni relations.

7. Other Items

Debra Stoudt reported that her college has a 40+ page database of international activities updated annually. She agreed to share this document to the group via email to Patricia Hughes.

Studio Abroad/Terra Dotta Software for Study Abroad databases should be able to provide information by college on credit and non-credit VT study abroad programs.

Rachel Fitzgerald reports that the Global Education Office has recently added a staff position to support Steger programs initiatives. Global Education is currently developing a University-level approval process for Study Abroad, with the goal of having a report produced by end of semester to incorporate university feedback.

There were no other items to discuss and the meeting was adjourned at 11:31.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2018.

